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Bay Shore, NY – On Monday, Rep. Steve Israel (D – Huntington) joined with Ocean Beach Mayor Joseph C. Loeffler, Jr., Islip Town Supervisor Phil Nolan, and Saltaire Village Administrator Mario Posillico to announce \$850,000 in new federal funding for the ferry terminals in Bay Shore and Ocean Beach. Funds secured by Rep. Israel, a Member of the House Appropriations Committee, will be put toward replacing the aging Ocean Beach ferry terminal and rehabilitating the extensively deteriorated bulkhead of the Bay Shore ferry terminal.

“Our ferries are not only a great way to get tourists to the beautiful Fire Island beaches, they are also essential to small businesses on both sides of the bay. As a Member of the House Appropriations Committee I was able secure \$850,000 for ferry improvements that will keep our terminals safe and our ferries running,” said Rep. Israel.

“I applaud Congressman Israel for finding us this funding. The ferries are not only a vital part of tourism in the Town of Islip that our summer season depends on, but they also provide a service for our year-round Fire Island residents,” said Supervisor Nolan.

The Ocean Beach ferry terminal enhancement project will receive \$600,000 in federal funds to replace the aging ferry terminal, elevate the structure to relieve a flooding problem, and repost the foundations of the ferry terminal marina. The Ocean Beach terminal was built in 1937.

The Bay Shore ferry terminal will receive \$250,000 for repairs to the deteriorated bulkhead that separates and protects the Bay Shore terminal from the Great South Bay. The funding will also make improvements to the terminal. An estimated one million passengers use the Bay Shore and Maple Avenue ferry terminals each year. Currently the Bay Shore ferry terminal has 540 feet of bulkhead in need of serious rehabilitation.

The federal funds were requested by Rep. Israel and passed as part of the FY2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act (H.R. 3288). The bill passed the House of Representatives on July 23, 2009. Rep. Israel serves on the House Appropriations Committee.